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# IMMIGRANTS IN SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL PROFESSIONS IN CANADA



A professional manpower bulletin

ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH BRANCH DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR OTTAWA



Bulletin No. 2 September 1957

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- No. 1 Trends in Professional Manpower Supplies and Requirements (August 1957).
- No. 2 Immigrants in Scientific and Technical Professions in Canada (September 1957).

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ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH BRANCH DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR Ottawa, September 1957

Hon. Michael Starr Minister A.H. Brown Deputy Minister

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# Immigrants in Scientific and Technical Professions in Canada

The present report is based on an analysis of 3,318 questionnaires completed by immigrants for the Scientific and Technical Personnel Register of the Canadian Department of Labour. The information in this Register is based on questionnaires obtained during the period 1951 – 1956 and thus the data refer to this period generally and not to any specific date.

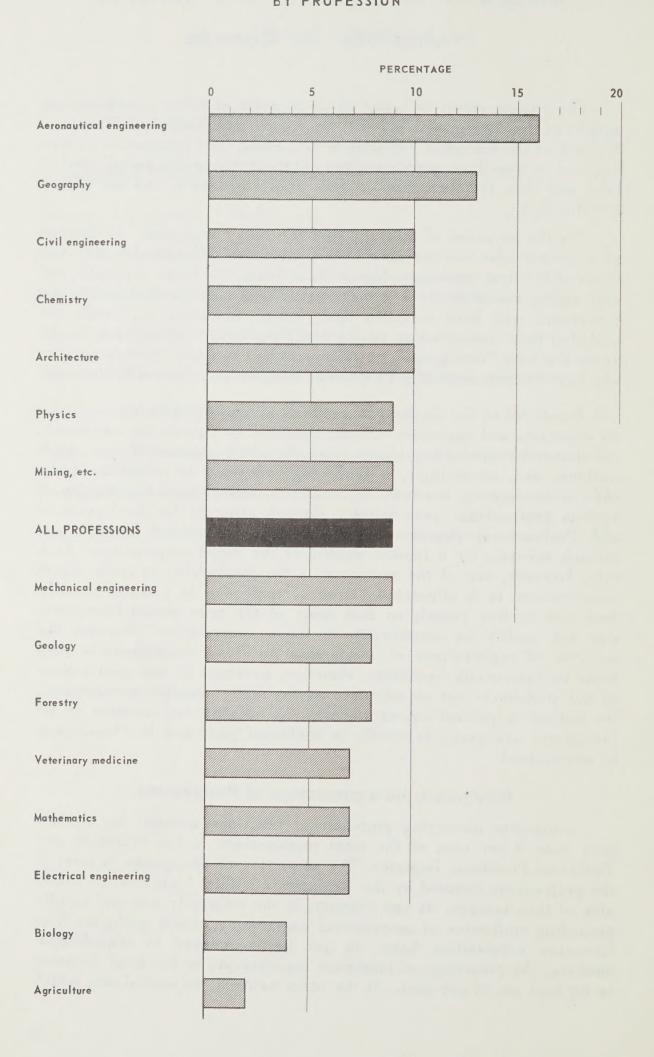
For the purposes of this analysis the term "immigrant" is defined as a person who has not only been born outside Canada but who has received his first university degree or, at least, his basic scientific and engineering education in a country other than Canada. It follows that immigrants who have received their formal education in Canada are excluded from consideration in the analysis. On the other hand, in defining the term "immigrant", no differentiation is made between persons who have become naturalized Canadian citizens and those who have not.

Enrolment in the Register is conducted on a voluntary basis. As far as scientists and engineers who are educated in Canada are concerned, the university graduating classes are the chief sources of new registrations, and, accordingly, a fairly high coverage is possible. In the case of immigrants, however, registrations come through membership of various professional associations, through referrals by the Executive and Professional Branch of the National Employment Service, and through referrals by a limited number of the larger corporations. As a rule, however, one of the requirements for membership in professional associations is a stipulated period of residence in Canada (usually from one to five years), so that many of the more recent immigrants can not qualify for membership in these associations. Because the sources of registrations of immigrants are less comprehensive than those for native-born Canadians, therefore, coverage of immigrant professional workers is not as complete as for their Canadian counterparts. No method at present exists whereby the identity and location of all immigrants occupying scientific or technical positions in Canada can be ascertained.

#### Immigrants, as a percentage of Professions

Immigrants occupying professional positions account for slightly less than 9 per cent of the total registrations in the Scientific and Technical Personnel Register. The proportion of immigrants in most of the professions covered by the Register is within 2 per cent on either side of this average. At one extreme, in the relatively new and rapidly expanding profession of aeronautical engineering, where graduates from Canadian universities have not yet been produced in considerable numbers, the proportion of immigrant registrations to the total Register is as high as 16 per cent. At the other extreme, in agriculture, which

Chart I
IMMIGRANTS, AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL REGISTER,
BY PROFESSION



is a long established and characteristic Canadian profession with a large body of personnel educated in Canada, immigrants account numerically for rather less than 2 per cent of the profession.

The registrations of immigrants in most of the other professions covered by the Register are close to the respective averages for these professions in the Register as a whole, with the two exceptions of biology, in which the proportion of immigrants to the total Register is low, and of geography, in which the proportion is high.

Table 1 - Immigrants, as a Percentage of the Total Register, by Profession

Profession	Immigrants	Total Register <sup>1</sup>	Percentage
Aeronautical Engineering	77	478	16
Geography	17	134	13
Civil Engineering	705	6,640	10
Chemistry	623	6.244	10
Architecture	131	1,321	10
Physics	120	1,360	9
dining etc	252	2,832	9
Mechanical Engineering	601	6,223	9
Geology	88	1.092	8
orestry	122	1,624	8
Veterinary Medicine	65	959	7
Mathematics	29	409	7
Electrical Engineering	376	5,275	7
Biology	57	1,541	4
Agriculture	55	3,639	2
Total	3,318	39,771	9

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Includes native born Canadians and immigrants.

### Country or Continent of Birth

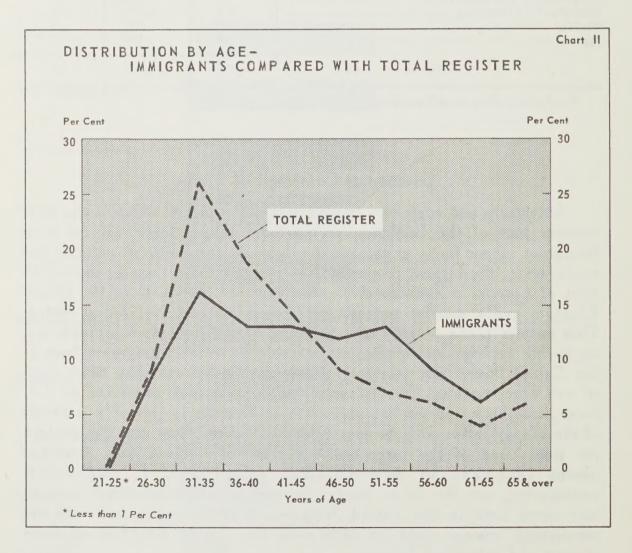
Scientists and engineers from almost all countries of the world have become part of the Canadian professional labour force. Of the total immigrant labour force at present available in the fields of science and engineering, the largest proportion (44 per cent) was born on the Continent of Europe, a considerable proportion (32 per cent) in the United Kingdom and a smaller proportion (16 per cent) in the United States. This pattern holds roughly true for most of the individual professions, excepting geology and mining engineering in which immigrants born in the United States are relatively much more numerous than those born in any other country. The unusually high numerical incidence of U.S. born geologists and mining engineers in Canada is probably a result of the steady influx of U.S. specialists in recent years into the western oil fields and of the large-scale transfer of workers from American parent companies to their Canadian subsidiaries. In aeronautical engineering, on the other hand, the number of professional workers who were born in the United States is very low compared with the percentage whose place of birth was the United Kingdom or some country of Continental Europe.

Table 2 - Country or Continent of Birth of Immigrants, by Profession

Profession	United States	United Kingdom	Other Commonweatlh	Africa	Asia	Latin America <sup>1</sup>	Continental Europe	Total
Aeronautical Engineering Agriculture Architecture Biology Chemistry Civil Engineering Electrical Engineering Forestry Geography Geology Mathematics Mechanical Engineering Mining etc Physics Veterinary Medicine	2 12 10 11 93 62 40 31 1 38 - 92 105 9	30 14 50 20 180 252 132 30 7 21 16 184 58	1 2 5 4 32 56 19 - 2 11 1 27 23 10	- - 1 - 1 - 1 - 2 -	3 1 1 1 20 8  3 2  10 8 6		41 26 65 22 303 313 172 60 4 15 12 286 57 36 52	77 55 131 57 623 705 376 122 17 88 29 601 252 120 65
Total Percentage	509 16	1,062	194	5 *	74 2	10	1,464	3,318 100

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Includes South America, Central America, Mexico.

\*Less than 1 per cent.



## Age of Immigrants, Compared with Total Register

On the whole, immigrants in the scientific and technical professions are older than their Canadian counterparts in the Register. The median age of immigrants as a group is 44 while for the total Register (including immigrants and native born Canadians) it is 39. This divergence in age may be accounted for, in part, by the fact that the median age for the total Register is becoming lower as new graduating classes from the universities are introduced to the Register each year. As shown in Table 3 and Chart II, professional workers who have been educated in Canada are mainly concentrated within the 31-35 age group, while immigrants are almost evenly distributed over five age groups, from 31 to 55, with a sharp decrease before and after the commencement and termination of these age groups.

Table 3 - Distribution by Age - Immigrants Compared with Total Register

A C	Immi	grants	Total Register			
Age Group	Number	Per Cent	Number	Per Cen		
21–25	10	*	18	*		
26-30	280	9	3,552	9		
31–35	542	16	10,241	26		
36-40	440	13	7,786	19		
41–45	424	13	5,355	14		
46-50	411	12	3,736	9		
51–55	423	13	2,847	7		
56-60	305	9	2,245	6		
61–65	186	6	1,711	4		
Over 65	297	9	2,280	6		
Total	3,318	100	39,772	100		
Median	44 y	ears	39 years			

<sup>\*</sup>Less than 1 per cent

#### Age of Immigrants, by Profession

As indicated above the median age of all immigrants in the Scientific and Technical Personnel Register is 44 years. The median age for most of the professions including almost all the engineering fields, fall within a year or two of this age (see Table 4).

In the mining profession, which includes milling and metallurgy, the median age of immigrants is 52, which is remarkably higher than for immigrants as a whole. In agriculture the median age is also higher than for the other professions.

In contrast, the median age of immigrants in both geography and veterinary medicine, at 39, is lower than for immigrants as a whole and the median age in physics, at 38, is lower still.

Table 4 - Age of Immigrants, by Profession

	21-25	26- 30	31- 35	36- 40	41- 45	46- 50	51- 55	56- 60	61- 65	Over 65	Total	Me- dian Age
A 1 E .		0	10	14	15	11	15	7	1	2	77	43
Aeronautical Engineering		2 3	10	14	15	3	7	6	8	9	55	50
Agriculture	_		17	21	29	17	11	10	11	11	131	
Architecture	_	4	5	9		10	11	1	3	2	57	44
Biology	_	4	-	98	12 69	69	90	63	30	22	623	45
Chemistry	4	56	122			96	68	52	43		705	1
Civil Engineering	5	82	117	75	59					108		46
Electrical Engineering	1	28	65	50		47	46	31	16		376	44
Forestry		9	24	15	15	7 3	19	14		12	122	45
Geography	_	7.0	5	4		11	1 5	1 7	7	7	17	39
Geology		10	14		16					1	88	44
Mathematics		2	3	3	3	5	5	5	3	_	29	49
Mechanical Engineering	_	44	94	68	89	79	83	64	34	46	601	46
Mining, etc		14	17	23	28	33	46	36	20	35	252	52
Physics	-	18	23	29	19	11	12	6	1	1	120	38
Veterinary Medicine	-	4	17	14	8	9	4	2	2	5	65	39
Total	10	280	542	440	424	411	423	305	186	297	3,318	44
Percentage	-	8	16	14	13	12	13	9	6	9	100	-

### Age of Immigrants, by Academic Level

The highest concentration of immigrants with a bachelor's or doctor's degree is at the 31-35 age level.

Above 35, master's degrees are more evenly distributed over the groups ending at 50. After the latter age, there is a sharp decrease in the number of immigrant professionals holding degrees.

In short, the proportion of scientists and technical persons without degrees is lower in the younger age groups, and relatively high in the middle age groups, with a concentration above the age of 50.

Table 5 - Age of Immigrants, by Academic Level

Age Group	No Degree	Bachelor	Master	Doctor	Total
\frac{1}{2}					
21-25 ,	1	7	2	-	10
26-30	16	195	41	28	280
31-35	38	345	81	78	542
36-40	31	258	96	55	440
41-45	28	221	107	68	424
46-50	30	226	102	53	411
51-55	48	220	99	56	423
56-60	34	168	58	45	305
61–65	50	104	16	16	186
Over 65	82	165	32	18	297
Total	358	1,909	634	417	3,318

## Country of University or Other Professional Training

The country in which immigrants received their first university degree or training is shown in Table 6. The totals correspond quite closely with those shown for the country of birth in Table 2. However, more immigrants were educated in the United States and the United Kingdom than were born there, indicating that some of the immigrants born in other countries received their training either in the United States or in the United Kingdom before coming to Canada.

In most of the professions, the number of immigrants educated in the United Kingdom is roughly double that of those educated in the United States. In forestry, geology, mining and agriculture, however, more immigrants were educated in the United States than in the United Kingdom. One explanation of this might be that the practice of these professions is largely similar in Canada and the United States, and the professions themselves highly developed, while it is governed by many different factors in other countries. In addition, forestry and mineral resources have played a much greater role in the economic development of the United States and Canada than in that of the United Kingdom and most other countries during the last 50 years. Many specialized schools were established in the United States to help meet these professional manpower needs. Canada has benefited greatly from the establishment of these institutions in the number of both native-born Canadians and of immigrants who have obtained their professional training there.

The high percentage of immigrants from "other" countries is largely attributable to a wave of post-war immigration from European countries, such as Hungary, Poland and Germany, where conditions have long been politically and economically unsettled.

Table 6 - Country of First Degree 1 of Immigrants, by Profession

	United States	United Kingdom	Germany	France	Other	Total
Aeronautical Engineering	6	32	4		35	77
Agriculture	13	12	_		30	55
Architecture	19	53	9	3	4.7	131
Biology	13	23	1	2	18	57
Chemistry	115	216	49	18	225	623
Civil Engineering	83	279	39	13	291	705
Electrical Engineering	53	159	24	13	127	376
Forestry	40	24	5	1	52	122
Geography	2	9		1	5	17
Geology	38	22	2	_	26	88
Mathematics	_	14	4	_	11	29
Mechanical Engineering	103	212	38	10	238	601
Mining, etc.	119	58	10	9	56	252
Physics	11	61	8	2	38	120
Veterinary Medicine	5	5	15	5	35	65
Total	620	1,179	208	77	1,234	3,318
Percentage	19	36	6	2	37	100

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Includes basic sicentific and engineering training of the non-degree type.

#### Academic Level of Immigrants

There is a notable difference between the levels of academic education attained by immigrants and by registrants as a whole.

In the case of the total Register, made up principally of nativeborn Canadians, 74 per cent attained bachelor level; only 58 per cent of immigrants have reached the same level. On the other hand, the proportion with post-graduate training is considerably higher for immigrants than for the Register as a whole.

The proportion of immigrants who have no degree is also higher than in the case of Canadian registrants, but this is largely due to the fact that many immigrants possess other qualifications, such as the Higher National Certificate which is granted in the United Kingdom. Such qualifications, while not recognized as degrees, do confer professional status on their possessors, subject to certain conditions.

In the individual professions, the academic level of attainment reached by immigrants is largely similar to that achieved by Canadian-educated registrants. A high percentage of immigrant architects possess no degree. Engineers are concentrated at the bachelor level, and a high proportion of biologists and physicists hold a doctorate.

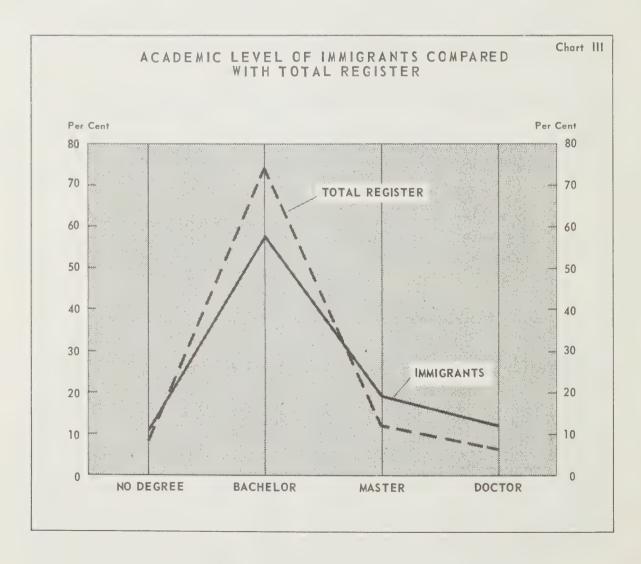


Table 7 - Academic Level of Immigrants, by Profession

5 (	No De	gree	Bach	elor	Mas	ter	Doctor		То	tal
Profession	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent	No.	Per Cent
Aeronautical Engineering Agriculture Architecture Biology Chemistry Civil Engineering Electrical Engineering Forestry Geography Geology Mathematics Mechanical Engineering Mining, etc Physics Veterinary Medicine	9  34 1 36 95 57 9  1  80 30 4	12 -26 2 6 13 15 7 -1 13 12 3 3	47 22 74 9 313 462 239 74 1 38 5 372 177 20 56	61	17 23 21 11 96 126 71 36 11 18 9 132 29 27	22 42 16 19 15 18 19 30 65 20 31 22 12 23 8	4 10 2 36 178 22 9 3 5 31 15 17 16	5 18 2 63 29	77 55 131 57 623 705 376 122 17 88 29 601 252 120 65	100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100
Total Immigrants Total Register	358 2,935	11 8	1,909 28,315	58 74	634 4,544	19 12	417 2,436	12 6	3,318 38,230	100

#### Functions Performed by Immigrants

The functions performed by immigrants, with corresponding percentages for the Register as a whole, are shown in Tables 8 and 9 and in Chart IV.

A higher proportion of immigrants than of registrants generally are employed in research, development and consulting work. In design work the ratio of immigrants to Canadian registrants so employed is almost 2 to 1. More than two-fifths of all immigrants in the Register are engaged in design, research or development work.

The proportion of immigrants employed in operation, maintenance and sales and service, on the other hand, is only about one-half as great as for registrants as a whole.

In the remaining functions the ratios of both immigrants and the total Register are about the same.

In general, therefore, it appears that a larger proportion of immigrants than of native Canadians go into research and planning work, and a smaller proportion go into operational work.

### Employers of Immigrants

About two of every five immigrants are employed in manufacturing industries, and almost one-sixth of all immigrants are engaged in work for the government. More than one-half of all immigrants included in the Register are employed by these two major categories of employer.

The proportion of immigrants engaged in manufacturing (40 per cent) is considerably higher than for the Register as a whole (35 per cent), but the proportion in government work (15 per cent) is much lower.

Other employment fields in which relatively large numbers of immigrants are engaged include consulting, education, construction, mining and public utilities.

#### Geographical Distribution

The present location of immigrants is shown in Table 11.

Most immigrants are employed in Ontario, Quebec and British Columbia, in order of decreasing numerical importance; Ontario employs almost four times the number employed in British Columbia.

The ratio of immigrants to the total Register is lowest in Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan, and New Brunswick in ascending order of importance.

In the remaining areas the ratios are about equal. A relatively higher percentage of native Canadians (4.9 per cent) than of immigrants (1.7 per cent) are, however, employed outside Canada.

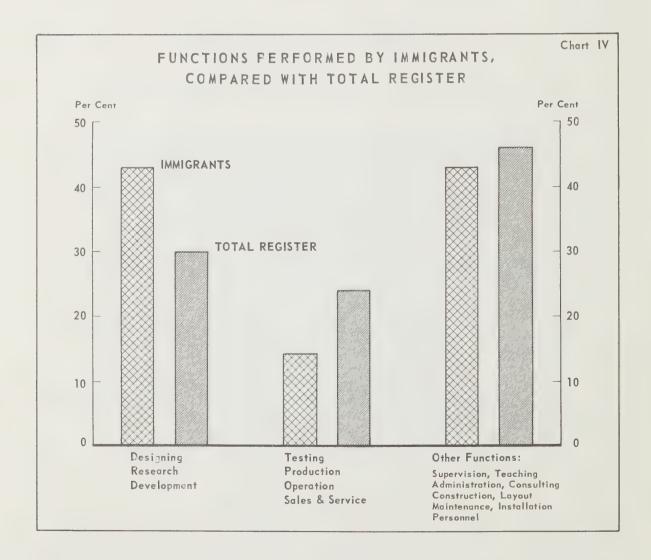


Table 8 - Functions Performed by Immigrants, by Profession

	Total Re Per Cent	12,1	7.4	11,1	7,1	1,5	5.8	4.6	3,4	5,1	3,2	6,2	14,2	7.1	5.8	4.0	9.0	0.2	9°0	100.0
rants	Per Cent	13,7	8,6	20,3	5.2	1,5	4.3	2.8	1.7	4.6	2.2	6.7	12,9	7.0	2,3	5.7	0.2	0,1	0.2	100.0
Total Immigrants	No.	454	287	674	174	20	143	94	57	153	72	222	428	232	92	189	N	2	9	3,318
	Veterinas SanisipsM	-	_	1	29	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	ro	1	26	1	ı	1	65
	Physics	29	4	1	ı	1	1	w	1	1	1	ಣ	20	35	1	-	1	1	1	120
*016	e . gariatiM	25	27	4	9	7	26	20	_	1	2	24	75	N	က	26	1	_	1	252
	Mechanic Engineer	31	53	167	14	17	39	17	22	3	13	50	91	15	28	37	က	1	1	601
soit	Mathema	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	1	27	1	1	1	1	1	29
	Ceology	23	16	1	1	1	4	7	1	1		7	10	12	1	18		1	1	88
ιλ	Geograph	က	-1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	-	1	14	1		1	1	1	17
	Forestry	17	9	4		1	ın	19	1	7	11	16	30	6	1	2	1	1	-	122
	Electrics Engineer	21	89	98	21	20	10	00	11	9	9	29	36	00	19	10	1	1	ഗ	376
Sui	Civil	11	12	285	10	ω	က	10	20	136	30	37	73	15	3	52		1	1	705
λ.	nts im 9 d D	197	82	8	74	n	51	13	7	7	1	42	82	34	21	11	2		1	623
	Biology	26	1	1	n	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	27	1	1	-	1	1	57
rm.e	Architect	ທ	S	82	1	1	<u></u>	1	1	S	4	11	~	7	1	4		1	1	131
ıre	Agricultu	15	-	1	6	1	P-4	1	1		1	7	00	91	~	7	1	1	1	55
	Aeronaut Engineer		13	25	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	4	6	3		-		1	1	22
	Function	Research	Development	Designing	Testing	Installation	Production	Operation	Maintenance	Construction	Layout	Administration	Supervision	Teaching, etc	Sales and service	Consulting	Personnel	Accounting	Other	Total

Table 9 - Functions Performed by Immigrants, by Employer Type

1912	Total Regi	1.4.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1.1	100.0
al	Per Cent	13.7 20.3 5.03 1.5 2.1 2.2 2.2 2.2 2.3 2.3 0.7 0.1 0.1 0.2	100.0
Total Immigrants	N.	454 457 447 445 445 445 445 445 445 445	3,318
	Other	16	35
٤٦٦	Covernmen	189 27 666 444 7 7 13 13 13	508
	GanitlusanoO	12 10 139 139 6 6 6 7 11 20 11 30 30 182 182 182	397
	Education	25 22 11   1   1   1   2   2   2   2   2   2	263
	Finance	18111111-81111	6
	Trade	10110100100101111	15
səitil	itU oildu'	60 40 11 11 11 11 11 11 11	112
noit	stroqenstT	222223 100000000000000000000000000000000	82
ио	Constructi	000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 00	184
gui	iutos luns M	118 204 264 75 75 26 17 118 237 237 26 67 67	1,340
	gainiM	22 22 22 44 14 11 11	170
	Primary Lestries	27       17   27   77   18   1   1   1   1	14
	Unreported	25 25 11 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	189
	Function	Research Development Designing Testing Installation Production Operation Maintenance Construction Layout Layout Supervision Supervision Teaching, etc. Consulting Personnel, etc. Accounting Accounting Other	Total

<sup>1</sup>Includes agriculture, forestry and fishing.

<sup>2</sup>Educational institutions on the university and college level.

<sup>3</sup>Includes federal, provincial and local governments and the armed forces.

	LatoT	77 55 131 57 623 705 376 122 17 88 29 601 252 120	3,318	100.0	100.0
	Other Service	1   1   1   3   5   1   1   1   1   1   1   1   1   1	35	1,1	1.4
	Government <sup>3</sup>	115 117 117 117 118 118 118 118 118 118 118	208	15,3	23.5
	Consulting	11 142 20 20 8 8 118 62 32 32 32	397	12.0	8,6
	Education2	100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100	263	7.9	6.1
ype	ээпвпіЧ	[0] [ 1 - 1 0 ] [ ] [ 0 - 1 ]	6	0.3	0.8
by Employer Type	əbsıT	111112111114211	15	0.5	1,2
by Emp	Public Utilities	1 1 2 1 2 8 3 2 1 2 1 1 1 2 8 2 1	112	3,4	4.7
Professions,	noits trogs ns 1T	- 1 - 1 4 8 6 1 1 1 1 8 8 1 1	82	2,5	3,9
Profes	Construction	147 147 133 13 13 13 13 13 13 13 13 13 13 13 13	184	5.5	4.3
ts in the	Manufacturing	54 12 6 120 210 210 49 10 10 10	1,340	40.4	35.6
nnigran	gainiM	113 138 88 1100 1700 170	170	5,1	5.3
Table 10 - Immigrant	Primary sepiriesal	1-11-1-01111-1-	14	0.4	1.7
Table	Unreported	10 10 10 10 13 13 13 13 13	189	5.6	2.9
		Aeronautical Engineering Agriculture Architecture Biology Chemistry Civil Engineering Electrical Engineering Forestry Geography Geology Mathematics. Mechanical Engineering. Mechanical Engineering. Weterinary Medicine.	Total	Percentage, immigrants	Percentage, total Register

<sup>\*</sup>Includes agriculture, forestry and fishing.

\*Educational institutions on the university and college level.

\*Includes federal, provincial and local governments and the armed forces.

57 55 57 57 57 57 57 50 17 88 88 29 29 50 11 20 50 120 60 3,318 100,0 100,0 Total 1.7 Outside Canada 82128444118200121 Yukon & N.W.T. 0.3 11114014111411 380 11.4 9.3 British Columbia 176 5.3 6.8 Alberta 288 288 29 27 111 113 113 Table 11 - Immigrants in the Professions, by Present Location 140 100 10 10 10 10 10 Saskatchewan Manitoba 108401294861 1,430 43.9 43.3 44 174 175 16 283 274 209 33 33 33 11 11 75 70 19 Ontario 1,033 30.0 23.1 26 9 9 16 235 231 1119 30 7 6 6 6 6 19 Grepec 25 0.7 1.9 111100111114811 New Brunswick Nova Scotia 14 14 8 8 8 4 14 8 5 8 4 8 Prince Edward Island 25 0.7 11-1-22-11-1 Newfoundland Per cent..... Total Aeronautical Engineering..... Physics ..... Veterinary Medicine Mining Engineering..... Agriculture..... Civil Engineering Electrical Engineering Forestry Chemistry Biology Architecture..... Mathematics Geography Geology Mechanical Engineering Profession



EDMOND CLOUTIER, C.M.G., O.A., D.S.P. QUEEN'S PRINTER AND CONTROLLER OF STATIONERY OTTAWA, 1957